

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/13358

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
Int.Cl.<sup>7</sup> H01L31/042

10/531313  
Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 APR 2005

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
Int.Cl.<sup>7</sup> H01L31/04-31/078

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004  
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 1338/1990 (Laid-open No. 93124/1991) (Nippon Sheet Glass Co., Ltd.), 24 September, 1991 (24.09.91), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1-8, 19, 20
A	JP 61-166182 A (NEC Corp.), 26 July, 1986 (26.07.86), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1-8, 19, 20

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☐ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&amp;" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
21 January, 2004 (21.01.04)

Date of mailing of the international search report  
10 February, 2004 (10.02.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/  
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 17073/1986 (Laid-open No. 128651/1987) 14 August, 1987 (14.08.87), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1-8, 19, 20
A	JP 2000-31519 A (Sanyo Electric Co., Ltd.), 28 January, 2000 (28.01.00), Par. Nos. [0030] to [0035]; Fig. 2 (Family: none)	1-8, 19, 20
A	EP 0755080 A2 (CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA), 22 January, 1997 (22.01.97), Full text; all drawings & US 6320115 B1 & JP 9-36405 A	8-20
A	JP 9-92867 A (Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.), 04 April, 1997 (04.04.97), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	8-20
A	JP 2000-252491 A (Canon Inc.), 14 September, 2000 (14.09.00), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	8-20
A	JP 2002-185026 A (Bridgestone Corp.), 28 June, 2002 (28.06.02), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	8-20
P, A	JP 2003-110127 A (Kyocera Corp.), 11 April, 2003 (11.04.03), Full text; all drawings (Family: none)	1-8, 19, 20

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## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

The special technical feature common to claims 1-8 and 19, 20 referring to them relates to a manufacturing method in which a first seal resin sheet and a second seal resin sheet are arranged and seal resin sheet pieces having a thickness greater than the solar battery cells are arranged at the space between the solar battery cells.

(Continued to extra sheet)

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  
☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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## Continuation of Box No. II of continuation of first sheet(1)

Moreover, the special technical feature common to claims 9-18 and 19, 20 referring to them relate to a manufacturing method including a step of arranging the solar battery cells and the first and the second seal resin sheet and a seal operation consisting of a step of introducing the obtained module in a seal processing vessel and decreasing pressure, a step of increasing the temperature, a step of increasing the pressure in the vessel, a step of increasing the temperature to accelerate cross-linking reaction, and a step of cooling down the temperature.

Accordingly, between claims 1-8 and 19, 20 referring to them and claims 9-18 and 19, 20 referring to them, there is no technical relationship involving one or more of the same or corresponding technical features.